



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
Issued: March 6, 2008



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**In the Matter of the Application for a Route Permit for the  
Fenton – Nobles #2 115kV High Voltage Transmission Line**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed for the Xcel Energy Fenton to Nobles County transmission project and is available to the public. The EA addresses potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed high voltage transmission line (HVTL) project and a route alternative. Copies of the EA and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19346>

Paper copies must be requested from the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Energy Security staff listed at the end of this notice.

***Project Description***

Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) has filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”) for a Route Permit for the Fenton to Nobles #2 Transmission Line Project (“Project”) on October 17, 2007 respectively, pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216E.

Xcel Energy proposes construction of a second 23 mile long, 115,000 volt (115 kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) between the company’s existing Fenton Substation in Murray County and its existing Nobles County Substation in Nobles County. The proposed Project is required in order to accommodate wind energy on the Buffalo Ridge.

***PUC Review Process***

Xcel Energy has submitted an Application for a Route Permit to the Public Utilities Commission. DOC has been assigned to hold public meetings and prepare an environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed transmission lines under the alternative review process found in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849.

The DOC has prepared the EA, analyzing the environmental impacts and a route alternative.

A Public Hearing presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings will be announced, noticed and held in Wilmont, Minn. at a time and

date to announced. Notice of the hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons receiving this notice by U.S. Mail.

***Project Contacts and Information***

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact the DOC project manager, Adam Sokolski (Tel: 651-296-2096 or [adam.sokolski@state.mn.us](mailto:adam.sokolski@state.mn.us)) or Deborah Pile (Tel: 651-297-2375 or [deborah.pile@state.mn.us](mailto:deborah.pile@state.mn.us)) Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.